REMARKS

Claims 13-15, 22, 28, 29, 36, and 37 have been canceled. The specification has been amended to incorporate the priority information for this Application. The claims have been amended solely for the purpose of removing multiple dependencies and aligning the claims to a U.S. acceptable claim format. A substitute sequence listing has been provided along with a Computer Readable Form of the Sequence Listing. The undersigned hereby states that the Paper Copy and the Computer Readable Form are identical. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Favorable consideration of the remarks provided below is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions he is invited to contact the under signed at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 13-15, 22, 28, 29, 36, and 37 have been canceled and claim 43 has been added.
The following claims have been amended as follows:

2. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 which is a DNA molecule[, and preferably cDNA].

3. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 [or 2] comprising the nucleotide sequence illustrated in SEQ ID No. 1.

4. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 [or 2] comprising the nucleotide sequence in SEQ ID No. 2.

5. (Amended) An antisense molecule capable of hybridising to the molecule according to [any of] claim[s] 1 [to 4] under high stringency conditions.

7. (Amended) A human Akt-3 protein or a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor thereof encoded by a nucleic acid molecule according to any of claim[s] 1 [to 4].

9. (Amended) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2 [or 3].

11. (Amended) An expression vector according to claim 9 [or 10] comprising a sequence encoding a reporter molecule.

12. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to any of claim[s] 1 [to 5] for use as a medicament.

16. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to [any of] claim[s] 1 [to 5] or a human Akt-3 protein according to any of claim[s] 6 [to 8] together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier diluent or excipient therefor.

17. (Amended) A host cell or organism, transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to [any of] claim[s] 9 [to 11].

18. (Amended) A transgenic cell, tissue or organism comprising a transgene capable of expressing a human Akt-3 protein according to [any of] claim[s] 6 [to 8].

19. (Amended) A human Akt-3 protein expressed from the cell or organism according to claim 17 [or 18].

20. (Amended) An antibody capable of binding to a human Akt-3 protein or an epitope thereof according to [any of] claim[s] 6 [to 8].

23. (Amended) [Use of an] A medicament comprising the antibody according to claim 20 [or 21 in the preparation of a medicament for treating cancer, or other diseases or conditions associated with human Akt-3 protein expression].

24. (Amended) A kit for detecting human Akt-3 protein in a sample which protein comprises a sequence according to any of claims 6 [to 8], said kit comprising an antibody according to claim 20 [or 21 and means for contacting said antibody with said sample].

25. (Amended) A method of identifying compounds which selectively inhibit human Akt-3 protein mediated promotion of cell survival said method comprising:

i) providing a cell transformed with an expression vector activating the Akt-3 pathway that survives in the presence or absence of a survival factor compared to a control cell which has not been transformed with said vector and will die in the absence of said survival factor, and

ii) contacting each of said cells with a test compound following the removal of said cells from said survival factor, wherein death of said transformed cell is indicative of selective inhibition of said compound on the survival promoting human Akt-3 pathway.

26. (Amended) A method of identifying compounds which selectively inhibit human Akt-3 protein mediated promotion of cell survival, said method comprising:

i) providing a cell transformed with an expression vector activating the Akt-3 pathway in addition to a control cell which has not been transformed with said vector,

ii) contacting each of said cells with a death inducing agent, whereby death of said control cell and survival of said transformed cell is indicative of the survival promoting activity of the activated Akt-3 pathway, and

iii) contacting said transformed cell with a test compound, wherein death of said cell is indicative of selective inhibition of said compound on the survival promoting human Akt-3 pathway.

27. (Amended) A compound identifiable according to the method of claim[s] 25 [or 26].

30. (Amended) A method of identifying agents which influence the activity of a human Akt-3 protein according to [any of] claim[s] 6 [to 8], said method comprising contacting said human Akt-3 protein with a substrate therefor in the presence of a test compound and a phosphate source, and monitoring for [any]phosphorylation of said substrate.

33. (Amended) A method of identifying agents which influence the activity of a human Akt-3 protein according to [any of] claim[s] 6 [to 8], said method comprising contacting a phospholipid or a surrogate or functional equivalent thereof, with a PH domain of a human Akt-3 protein according to [any of] claim[s] 6 [to 8] in the presence of an agent to be tested and monitoring for [any] binding of said phospholipid, surrogate or functional equivalent thereof with said PH domain of said Akt-3 protein.

35. (Amended) An agent identifiable according to the method of claim 33 [or 34].

38. (Amended) A method of treating diseases associated with human Akt-3 activity said method comprising administering to an individual suffering from said disease a compound that inhibits the function and/or expression of a human Akt-3 protein according to [any of] claim[s] 6 [to 8], in a sufficient concentration to reduce the symptoms of said disease.

39. (Amended) A method according to claim 38 wherein said compound is any of an antisense molecule according to claim 5, an antibody according to claim 21 [or 22], a compound according to claim 27 or an agent according to claim 35.

41. (Amended) A method of identifying a compound which modulates Akt-3 kinase activity, comprising:

a) contacting said Akt-3 with a substrate thereof in the presence of a radiolabelled phosphate source, and the compound to be tested,

b) stopping the reaction by the addition of kinase inhibitor in the presence of SPA beads, and

c) monitoring the signal from said beads compared to a control which has not been contacted with said compound.

42. (Amended) A method of identifying a compound which modulates Akt-3 activity, comprising:

a) contacting said Akt-3 with a substrate thereof in the presence of a radiolabelled phosphate source, and the compound to be tested,

b) stopping the reaction,

c) filtering the reaction mixture through phosphocellulose cation exchange paper, and

d) monitoring the signal from said filter paper compared to a control which has not been contacted with said compound.